

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Applicant appreciates having the opportunity to participate in a telephone interview with the Examiner on October 29, 2003 and discuss the claims with respect to the prior art patents cited in the office action. No agreement was reached; however, it was agreed the claims would be amended to emphasize the novel features of the inlet apertures, and/or groove surface of the roller.

Claims 1 and 2 were amended and new claims 3-15 were added to the application.

The Examiner has objected to the specification due to a spelling error.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection in view of Applicant's amendment to the specification correcting the error.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection in view of Applicant's amendment to the claims in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofberger U.S. Patent 2,850,852 in view of Crane (U.S. Patent 2,601,095).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner admits that the Hofberger does not disclose a flange extending outwardly from the peripheral surface as described and claimed by Applicant; however, the Examiner has noted that the Crane reference teaches the use of a flange. The combination of references still do not teach Applicant's claimed roller guide. As set forth in column 3, lines 1-15 of the Hofberger reference, the Hofberger belt roller include a plurality of vanes spanning the space between the cover plate and bottom wall of the cavity in effect creating a blower. As illustrated in the drawings, Hofberger's cooling bores do not extend all of the way through the pulley. The openings on the rear of the pulley allow air to enter a cavity formed between an coaxial sleeve which fits upon a shaft and the pulley body having grooves formed therein which are closed on the end whereby the air exits between the shaft and a interior end wall flange. Hofberger alleges the pulley acts as a blower; however, a blower usually has an exit port for the air to escape which is disposed normal to the direction of the vanes. Hofberger's washer like cover 30 would seem to impede the flow of air through the pulley possibly limiting the cooling capability thereof.

As amended, Applicant's claimed roller guide has a front face surface disposed perpendicular to the peripheral surface for engaging the rear edge of the bandsaw blade. The body member has a plurality of passages extending therethrough with inlets thereto in the rear face and outlets therefrom in the front face. The body member includes means adjacent the inlets such as apertures, to cause air to flow through the passages during rotation of the roller. Unlike the Hofberger pulley, Applicant's roller guide includes angled louvers leading to the through bore for funneling air there through.

Finally, Applicant has claimed with particularly the improved inlet louvres of the present invention which maximize the flow of air captured by the smooth face of the roller guide.

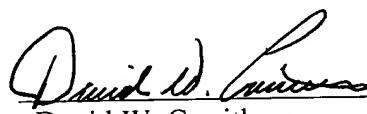
The Examiner has also listed several patents made of record and not relied upon which is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. Applicant has reviewed the references and agrees with the Examiner that while pertinent, the references are no more relevant than the cited references.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the cited references and that the application is in better condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests prompt reconsideration and receipt of the formal Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner believes there are other unresolved issues in this case, Applicant's attorney would appreciate a telephone call at (502) 452-1233 to discuss any such remaining issues.

Please charge for any underpayment or credit and overpayments to Counsel's deposit account 50-0642.

Respectfully submitted,



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